

**REMARKS**

In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action of July 13, 2005, are earnestly solicited.

Claims 1—11 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1—4, 6—8 and 10—11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berson, U.S. Patent No. 6,532,459 in view of Brikho, U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0113122. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Berson pertains to enabling a user to input identifying information about himself and then be guided through a process to find personal information regarding himself in various external databases on a network, such as the Internet. Once records about the user have been located at a particular database, the system, upon authorization of the database owner, may be used to access that database, to the extent possible, subject to the restrictions of the database owner, and to erase, modify or correct the located records.

In Brikho, each local retailer system confirms that the present entry is for a new customer by searching for an existing customer record on a localized database established at the retail location. While Brikho also teaches networking of a plurality of retail locations, there is no disclosure of searching a single shared person data repository by any of the local retailer systems.

Indeed, neither Berson nor Brikho teaches such a shared repository for storing the core person data for every person to be involved with or require visibility in one or more of a plurality of unrelated database systems. Furthermore, the cited references, taken alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest Applicants' access control module. Berson uses the access control rules of a particular database being searched, not a shared access

control module. Since there is no shared person data repository in the cited art, likewise there is no access control module for controlling access to such a repository.

At section 19 of the Final Office Action the Examiner asserts that the claim language is silent on whether the access control module is shared or not. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Independent claim 1 calls for:

an access control module connected between user interfaces of each of said plurality of unrelated database systems and said controller module.

This limitation by necessity implies the access control module is "shared" by each of the plurality of unrelated database systems, since it is coupled to each of them.

Similarly, independent method claim 10, implies a shared access control module for receiving requests from each of the plurality of unrelated database systems via the controller module.

Therefore, Applicants reassert their prior distinguishing arguments over the art of record.

Therefore, the cited combination fails to teach or suggest independent Claim 1's shared "person data repository," "access control module" and shared "authenticating module." Claim 1 and its dependent Claims 2—4 and 6—8 are in condition for allowance.

Similarly, missing from the cited references are the steps of Claim 10 of "providing a person data repository" and "providing a controller module. Claim 10 and its dependent Claim 11 are likewise in condition for allowance.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berson in view of Brikho and further in view of Rippich, U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0099701. The

rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 indirectly depends from Claim 1 and is therefore in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berson in view of Brikho and further in view of the Sheu et al. article. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

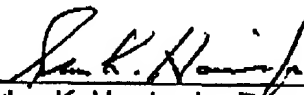
Claim 9 indirectly depends from Claim 1 and is therefore in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1.

Claims 1—11, as previously presented, are believed to be in condition for allowance, early acknowledgment of which is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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